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WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Republican Lawmakers Allocate Funding for Voter Education

Madison - On Monday, State Senator Alberta Darling (R-River Hills) and State Representative John Nygren (R-Marinette), Co-Chairs of the budget-writing Joint Committee on Finance, released the following statement regarding the committee's decision to allocate additional funding for voter education:

"The peoples' right to vote is vital to our democracy and it is incredibly important to ensure that all Wisconsin voters have access to the appropriate information before heading to the polls.

"Wisconsin law requires voters to present valid photo identification prior to casting their vote. This change cuts down on voter fraud and upholds the integrity of our state's elections.

"Various attempts to derail implementation of the voter ID law may cause some confusion. We have decided to allocate \$250,000 to help educate voters across Wisconsin.

"The funding will be used by the newly created, bipartisan Elections Commission to conduct valuable outreach to prospective voters and to help ensure that everyone who plans to cast a vote in the upcoming November election has access to the latest information.

"The 2016 primary on April 5th was the first election with the voter ID law in effect. Predictions by some of lower turnout were unfounded. We are proud that the primary experienced the highest voter turnout in a presidential primary since 1972. There were more than 2.1 million votes cast in the 2016 primary. That's the highest number of votes cast in a presidential primary ever recorded.

"While voter turnout was extraordinary in April, we still believe it's important to continue spreading awareness about the voter ID law. It is our goal to ensure that every Wisconsinite who plans to cast a vote this November is able to do so."

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